



KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1950

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1950

Kidderminster Rural District Council

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. E. HALFORD, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. PARDOE

COUNCILLOR C. BLOUNT

„	E. EVANS
„	H. DOOLITTLE
„	T. GRIFFIN
„	H. HINGLEY, J.P.
„	A. E. HOBSON
„	G. N. PERCIVAL-HUMPHRIES, J.P., C.C.
„	G. LEE
„	W. H. KIMBERLEE, J.P.
„	G. F. PRATT
„	E. SMITH
„	J. WARDLE
„	R. P. WILLIAMS
„	T. O. WILSON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer:

R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant: C. G. KNOTT

Public Health Clerk: MISS J. E. MANTLE

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer: J. BUNN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the
year 1950.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	....	...	....	...	....	....	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population							
mid 1950	...	....	...	....	...		11,210
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1950					....		3,500
Rateable Value	....	....	...	....	....		£65,662
Sum represented by a penny rate			....	....	....		£268

Social Conditions

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in Kidderminster, and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics.

				1950	1949	
Births		Males	Females	Total	Total	
(a)	Live Births: Legitimate	....	86	84	170	179
	Illegitimate	...	5	4	9	9
	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	....	...	....	15.9	16.9
	Birth rate for England Wales	...	....		15.8	16.7
		Males Females				
(b)	Still Births: Legitimate	....	2	2	4	7
	Illegitimate	....	0	0	0	2
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)					
	births	....	....	....	43.0	45.7
Deaths		Males Females				
(a)	No. registered for District	....	63	54	117	110
	Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	....	....	....	10.4	9.9
	Death rate for England and Wales		....		11.6	11.7
(b)	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....		15	18
	Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	...		0	0
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				0	0
	Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs of age)	....	....	...	0	0
(c)	Maternal Mortality	....	....	...	0	1
(d)	Infant Mortality. Under 1 year of age	...			3	6
	Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:					
	All Infants per 1,000 live births	....			16.8	37.2
	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	....	....	....	17.7	50.3
	Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	....	....	...	0	0
	Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births		....		29.8	32

Causes of Death.

	M	F
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	-
6 Meningococcal Infections ...	-	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	4
16 Diabetes	0	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	10
18 Coronary disease, angina	7	4
19 Hypertension with heart disease	1	0
20 Other heart diseases	15	17
21 Other circulatory disease ...	-	3
22 Influenza	1	1
23 Pneumonia	3	-
24 Bronchitis	4	2
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	-
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
31 Congenital malformations ...	-	1
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	7	5
33 Motor vehicle accidents	4	-
34 All other accidents	-	2
All causes	63	54

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, and of Miss J. E. Mantle as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, and operates from Kidderminster.

Nursing at Home.

There are three District Nurses in the Area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. In addition two other District Nurses deal with portions of the Area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are four Infant Welfare Centres in the Area—at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley and Chaddesley Corbett.

The Welfare Centres at Wribbenhall and Hagley are also used by residents of the Area.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area.

For infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where possible. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6 p.m. and Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, when Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Committee.

Venereal Disease.

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council own approximately seventy miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural District is supply by:—

- (1) The Councils' Borehole at Cookley.
- (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.
- (3) The Stourbridge Water Board.

The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

Number of Houses Supplied from Public Mains.

Parish	No. of houses supplied from stand taps	No. of houses supplied direct from mains
Wolverley	213	767
Upper Arley	19	70
Ribbesford	—	6
Churchill and Blakedown	5	307
Rock	38	331
Broom	—	40
Stone	—	72
Rushock	—	—
Kidderminster Foreign ..	207	62
Chaddesley Corbett ..	17	330
Total	499	1,985

The above figures are approximate. Included in the 499 houses supplied from stand taps are several areas of bungalow development and a "squatters" camp.

At regular intervals throughout the year the Sanitary Inspector submitted samples of water from the three main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination by the County Analyst. All the samples were satisfactory. The following are copies of the Analyst's Certificates on three samples submitted to him.

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Borehole water contained in W. Qt. and 8 oz. Bottles. Marked The Garage, Mustow Green. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on the 28th September, 1950.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically with the following results:—

Physical Characters. Clear.

Odour. None.

Deposit. Very Slight White. pH 7.2

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100° C)	....	....	Slight Trace
Solids in Solution (dried at 180° C)	....	....	19
Solids in Solution after Ignition	...	...	12
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	....	....	3.2
Hardness Permanent )	...	...	6
Hardness Temporary )	....	....	6
Hardness Total )	....	....	12
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	....	...	0.001
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	....	0.77
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	....	....	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)	....	...	0.04
Toxic Metals	....	....	None detected

Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C 2 per one m.l.

(b) In three days at 22°C ... 5 per one m.l.

Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) count Nil per 100 m.l.

Opinion:—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst.

11th October, 1950

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Elan Valley Supply Water contained in W. Qt. and 8 oz. Bottles. Marked 4 Council Houses, Low Habberley. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on 27th October, 1950.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically with the following results:—

Physical Characters. Very Slight Yellow.

Odour None.

Deposit None. pH 10.0.

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C)	...	....	Nil
Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C)	....	....	5
Solids in Solution after Ignition	....	...	4
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	1
Hardness Permanent	....	....	1
Hardness Temporary	...	....	2
Hardness Total	....	....	3
Free and Saline Ammonia	....	...	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	....	....	0.0058
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	....	...	0.04
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	....	....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N80 Permanganate)	...	...	0.28
Toxic Metals	....	...	None detected

Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C 2 per one m.l.

(b) In three days at 22°C ... 25 per one m.l.

Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) count Nil per 100 m.l.

Opinion:—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst.

10th November, 1950.

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Stourbridge Water Board water contained in W. Qt. and 8 oz. Bottles. Marked Sculthorpe Road, Blake-down. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, I and Oak House, Kidderminster, on 27th October, 1950.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically with the following results:—

Physical Characters. Clear.

Odour None.

Deposit. Very Slight White. pH 8.0.

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C) Slight Trace

Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C) 31

Solids in Solution after Ignition ... 29

Chlorides calculated as Common Salt 4

Hardness Permanent 12

Hardness Temporary 14

Hardness Total ... 26

Free and Saline Ammonia ... 0.0002

Albuminoid Ammonia ... Nil

Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates) ... 0.67

Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites) Nil

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N/80 Permanganate) Nil

Toxic Metals None detected

Note:—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------|------|----------------|
| (a) | In two days at 37°C | .... | .... | 3 per one m.l. |
| (b) | In three days at 22°C | .... | .... | 3 per one m.l. |

Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) count Nil per 100 m.l.

Opinion:—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst.

10th November, 1950.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year a Public Inquiry was held into the main sewerage scheme for the villages of Cookley and Wolverley, and it is with considerable pleasure that I record that the Ministry's approval in principal was received during the latter part of the year.

The conditions in these villages, remains as serious as ever and it is hoped that consent to proceed with the scheme will not be further delayed.

In Chaddesley Corbett the sanitary conditions are most unsatisfactory. Little progress has been made towards obtaining approval of the Council's scheme for this area and it is hoped that it will be obtained during 1951.

In the meantime a cesspool emptying vehicle is being hired for use in these areas on behalf of the owners concerned, but it is apparent that in view of the size of the problem this can only be a palliative measure.

Rivers and Streams.

The conditions of most streams and water courses in the area remains as reported last year, and little improvement can be expected until the Council's sewerage schemes have been completed

HOUSING

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	721
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	797
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	62
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	84
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	105

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	84
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—**A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a)	By Owners	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | .... | .... | ... | 5 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | .... | .... | .... | 3 |

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | .... | .... | ... | .... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been made fit. | ... | .... | .... | .... | ... | .... | Nil |

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

Although there is still a considerable degree of overcrowding in the Area, the year has seen some improvement. The Council's Housing Programme has made good progress, but as previously stated cannot keep pace with the demand.

No. of Applications 1st January, 1950	....	....	525
No. of houses erected during the year	....	....	70
No. of Applications 31st December, 1950	....	...	662

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report deals with these matters.

The Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning during the year.

**Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.
Immunisation against Diphtheria.**

The importance of early immunisation of infants against diphtheria, and the necessity for a reinforcing dose on entering school, has been brought to the notice of all parents. The response has been fairly satisfactory, but there is still room for improvement.

The campaign suffered a serious set-back during the summer months, when as a precautionary measure all forms of inoculation were suspended. This decision was taken following an apparent connection between such inoculations and the occurrence of paralysis in the limb concerned in a patient who was incubating poliomyelitis.

The publicity given to this in the daily press was unfortunate and misleading and gave rise to unnecessary doubts and fears in the minds of parents.

It is felt that a great opportunity was missed by the Ministry concerned in that no suitable public statement was made in advance of publication in the national press.

A further 74 children under 5 years and 15 children from 5 to 14 years of age were given primary courses of treatment during the year, and 101 were given booster doses.

No case of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1950 are set out in the following table.

AGE IN YEARS												
Disease	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	over 65	Total No. of cases	No. of cases admitted to hosp'l	No. of deaths
Measles	—	11	16	28	5	—	1	—	—	61	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	4	10	3	2	2	—	—	21	10	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3	1	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	2	9	16	—	6
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Total	—	13	23	43	11	2	6	3	9	110	13	6

Tuberculosis.

Twelve cases were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	10	2	—	—	2	—	—	—

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

CONCLUSION.

For some time now the general conditions of the old type of property in the district has given rise to some concern.

It is realised that many different factors are involved in the poor state of repair of many such houses, e.g. the difficulties in carrying out any work during the war period and the shortage of materials and labour since. It is proposed during 1951 to prepare a report outlining the situation, and the Council will be asked to consider the most suitable steps which should be taken to deal with the problem.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,
Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCILLOR A. E. HALFORD, J.P., C.C.

With deep regret we have to record the death of Councillor Halford, who held the office of Chairman of the Council for seven years.

In common with all other departments of the Council we shall miss his wise guidance and help, which were always so readily available.

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1950

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Number of visits made to premises re cases of infectious disease and disinfection: 26.

Disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out where necessary by means of disinfectant and formaldehyde lamps.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

On the 1st March, 1950, the new Byelaws for "the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air" came into force.

Steps were taken to acquaint all concerned with these Byelaws and advice has been given where ever necessary. In the nine months of the year during which the Byelaws were in force, inspections were made of all food premises and a considerable number of improvements have been carried out. Special mention should be made of the co-operation received from all concerned, particularly those having control of Licensed Premises throughout the area. The Brewery Companies have readily agreed to our suggestions with regard to facilities for washing up and whereas with the shortage of materials, progress is bound to be slow, improvements have been made.

An increasing number of Catering Licences have been granted by the Ministry of Food and inspections have been made in each case.

MILK.

A close watch has been kept on the distribution of milk in the Area. In the very few cases where it has been necessary to draw traders attention to infringements of the law, we have received their willing co-operation.

It is to be regretted that it becomes more apparent as time goes on that the transfer to another authority of the responsibility for the inspection of dairy farms has not improved the situation.

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTION.

It is common knowledge that the meat situation did not improve during the year. It is to the credit of our meat retailers that they handled their supplies with the greatest care, and their premises at all times have been a credit to them.

The following was condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

Bacon	....	....	....	...	...	....	10 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Beef	...	....	....	....	...	....	64 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Pineapple		2 tins

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force	24
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BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register, December, 1950	8		
Inspections	24
Informal Notices served	Nil
Statutory Notices served	....	....	...	....	Nil	

Contraventions Remedied:—

Limewashing	....	....	...	....	....	...	4
Dirty Floors	....	....	...	...	....	....	Nil

CANAL BOATS.

It is sad to record that the once busy canal which runs through the Area is now entirely unused.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Council's refuse collection system provides for a fortnightly collection, with the exception of very isolated areas which are dealt with monthly. Complaints during the year have been few. The Council's building programme is bringing a steady increase in the volume of work and during the year it was decided to purchase a further vehicle. Unfortunately the date of delivery of this vehicle is problematical.

With regard to the disposal of refuse the Council have been fortunate in that several farmers have agreed to have fold yards and sunken roads filled in. Also the wisdom of the Council in purchasing seven acres of land some years ago at Wolverley has been adequately proved.

During the year a total of 1,887 loads having an estimated weight of 5,661 tons have been dealt with. The following are the details of the work done by each lorry.

The Council's lorry is dealing with the parishes of Churchill and Blakedown, Broom and part of Wolverley.

Tipped at Wolverley	...	....	...	553 loads
Tipped at Woodrow	106 loads
Tipped at Woodhouse Farm	58 loads

Estimated weight: 2,737 tons.	717 loads
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One contractor's lorry is dealing with the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone, Rushock, and part of Wolverley.

Tipped at Wolverley	298 loads
Tipped at Lodgeford	433 loads

Estimated weight: 1,827 tons.	731 loads
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A second contractor has been dealing with the parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford.

Tipped at Bransley Farm, Rock	....	...	...	17 loads
Tipped at Gorst Hill Farm, Rock	...	...	...	213 loads
Tipped at Trimpley	....	....	...	185 loads
Tipped at Field House, Rock	21 loads
Tipped at Beddoes Green	3 loads

Estimated weight: 1,097 tons.	439 loads
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Night Soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddesley Corbett Village. The work is done by a local contractor, who uses a motor lorry provided with suitable bins for the carriage of the night soil. No complaints have been received with regard to the manner in which this work is done.

The Council's proposed Sewerage Scheme for the village will render this service unnecessary, but as a temporary measure the system is as efficient as possible.

Number of pail closets emptied per week: 81.

Cesspools.

Pending the installation of the Council's proposed sewers, nuisances from overflowing cesspools have again been dealt with by the use of a hired cesspool emptying vehicle. 231 cesspools have been emptied at the owners' expense, and the service has been considerably extended.

CAMPING SITES.

Number of large sites which were used for camping purposes (approximately)	....	....	...	22
Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	....	...	....	2
Estimated number of campers resident in the Area at any one time during the summer of 1950	...	3000		
Inspections made	...	....	...	51

The ever increasing number of people using the area for camping holidays, again showed their abilities to maintain the camping sites in a reasonable condition. Litter was again the biggest menace, and it would have been far worse but for the fact that the owners of the camping sites carried out their obligations with regard to the provision of litter bins and refuse dumps. There is no doubt that the benefit to the health of the campers far out-weighed any temporary nuisance they may have caused.

WATER SUPPLY.

General.

Number of samples submitted for analysis	31
Number of samples found to be unfit or unsuitable	11
Number of samples found to be fit	20

Council's Borehole, Cookley.

Number of samples submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination	6
Number of samples found to be of good quality and fit for drinking	6

The water from the Borehole shows little variation in physical character and chemical composition.

For specimens of Analyst's Reports see Medical Officer of Health's Report.

HOUSING.

The advantage of placing the duty of the supervision of house letting in the hands of the Health Department has been very apparent during the year. Working in close harmony with the Medical Officer of Health many problems of public health and housing have been dealt with, and it is obvious that the conditions under which so many people are living at the present time make it essential that the help and advice of such a department should be available at all times.

In erecting 256 houses since the end of the war the Council have reason to be pleased, but not satisfied, with their progress. In common with the remainder of the country the number of houses erected is falling short of the demand.

The situation at the end of the year is shown in the following table:—

Parish	No. of houses let	No. of houses occupied	No. of Applications	Service and Ex-Servicemen		Others		Farm Workers	Waiting to get married	Aged
				With homes	In rooms	In rooms	With homes			
Rock ..	31	29	58	7	19	5	6	11	3	7
Stone ..	14	14	40	7	10	3	5	11	3	1
Arley ..	4	4	31	4	11	6	2	6	1	1
Kidderminster Foreign ..	9	9	22	2	10	2	6	1	1	—
Wolverley ..	62	56	142	18	57	24	15	8	5	15
Cookley ..	71	71	122	29	34	12	24	9	3	11
Churchill and Blakedown and Broom ..	38	38	65	14	17	3	11	11	2	7
Chaddesley Corbett ..	33	33	85	5	21	9	14	26	—	10
Rushock ..	1	1	9	1	—	1	—	6	—	1
Out of K.R.D. ..	1	1	88	7	39	10	4	7	5	16
Total ..	264	256	662	94	218	75	87	*96	23	69
						293				

* Including applications by Employers.

It will be observed that there are 244 families living in rooms in the area and applications from this section of the public are increasing week by week. Of the 170 applications from persons with homes, a large proportion are living in houses scheduled for demolition, and until the programme of house building can be accelerated, they will have to continue living in these circumstances.

The Council are doing everything they can to increase the rate of building, but have to meet with many difficulties.

COMPLAINTS.

Number of complaints received	526
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Summary of Complaints.

Housing Defects	96
Defective and choked drainage			160
Miscellaneous	....	....	...	....	....	270

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1950.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows:—

Number of premises inspected	...	....	3129
Bakehouses	....	....	24
Caravans and Movable Dwellings	...		111
Dairies	....	....	51
Fried Fish Premises	....	...	14
Infectious Disease	....	....	26
Overcrowding	....	....	320
Premises where animals are kept	....		60
Schools	..	....	4
Water Courses	....	....	79
Water Supply	...	....	282
Workshops	....	....	1
Provision of Dustbins	...	....	26
Miscellaneous	...	...	750
Refuse Collection	....	....	1401

SANITARY WORK.**Interior of Houses**

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenant	13
Verminous houses dealt with	1

Yards and Outbuildings

Dirty yards and W.C.'s cleansed by tenants	1
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc.	291

Drainage

Yard gullies cleansed by tenants	170
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	107
Defective drains repaired	76
New drains provided	42
Glazed stoneware gullies provided	86
Inspection chambers provided to drains	48
Overflowing cesspools cleansed and repaired ...	360
Inspection chambers repaired and provided with new air-tight covers	17
Glazed sinks provided	36
Cesspools abolished	26

Water Closets

New Water Closets erected	17
Additional W.C.'s provided	4
Foul and obstructed W.C.'s cleansed	68
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired ...	21
Water Closets repaired	51
Water Closets provided with new basins and taps	6
Defective water supply to W.C.'s remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.) ...	117
Conversions:—	
Conversion of privies to W.C.'s	3
Conversion of pail closets to W.C.'s	4

Urinals

Urinals cleansed and repaired	2
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Privies and Pail Closets

New pans provided to pail closets	56
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Ashpits and Dustbins

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	...	60
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants	2
Ashpits abolished	.... ...	3

Various

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	....	16
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	61
Miscellaneous nuisances dealt with	.... ...	276
Nuisances on highways	.... ....	2

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

No. of visits	.... ....	1405
Premises found to be infested	.... ....	141
Premises treated with Zinc Phosphide	... ..	44
Premises treated with Red Squill	.... ...	97

Sewers

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers at Blakedown and Wolverley were test baited during the year with satisfactory results.

Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Sanitary Inspector.

